

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00385 132310Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0385

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PFOR, FR, CA
SUBJECT: ALLEGED FRENCH UNDERCOVER ACTIVITIES HIT THE PRESS

REF: QUEBEC 368, PARIS 36243

1. CTV REPORTED DECEMBER 12 THAT 2 FRENCH AGENTS HAVE BEEN PROMOTING QUEBEC'S INDEPENDENCE FOR LAST 15 YEARS (SEE REFTELS). NETWORK JOURNALIST ROBERT REGULY STATED IN REPORT THAT PHILLIPPE ROSSILLON AND XAVIER DANIAU WORKED WITH SEPARATIST GROUPS IN 1960'S TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST QUEEN'S 1964 VISIT. REGULY SAID ROSSILLON HAS MET WITH CLAUDE MORIN, MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND LOUISE BEAUDOIN, - WHOM HE HAS KNOWN SINCE 1967 - DEFEATED PQ CANDIDATE IN JEAN TALON AND NOW MORIN'S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT. REPORT STATED RENE LEVESQUE TURNED DOWN 1972 OFFER BY ROSSILLON AND FRENCH CABINET MINISTERS TO SUPPORT QUEBEC DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN UN, HELP INDEPENDENT QUEBEC JOIN EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET, AND PROVIDE CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PQ.

2. CTV REPORT WENT ON TO STATE FRANCE'S NEXT BIG PUSH IS EXPECTED TO BE AMONG THE ACADIANS. "ROSSILLON HAS LAVISHED A MILLION DOLLARS ON REVIVING THE L'EVANGELINE, THE ONLY FRENCH-LANGUAGE PAPER IN THE MARITIMES. HE ALSO REVITALIZED THE ACADIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY AND HELPED PLANT A FRENCH CONSULATE IN MONCTON." REGULY SAID THAT CONSULATE WAS ONE OF CHANNELS FOR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SECRET MONEY TO FINANCE FRENCH INFLUENCE IN QUEBEC.
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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00385 132310Z

REGULY ADDED THAT ISLANDS OF ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON ARE ON

CANADA'S DOORSTEP AND ARE NOW SUDDENLY BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A NEW NAVAL BASE, AN AIRBASE FOR JET PLANES, AND A POWERFUL RADIO TRANSMITTER TO BROADCAST FRENCH CULTURE INTO QUEBEC AND ACADIA.

3. UNRELATED ARTICLE IN DECEMBER 11 LE SOLEIL ANALYZING FRENCH-QUEBEC RELATIONS STATED: "FOR SOME TIME A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FUNCTIONARIES OF THE 2EME BUREAU - FRENCH EQUIVALENT OF THE CIA (SIC) - HAVE BEEN VISITING QUEBEC RECENTLY. THEY HAVE CONTACTED POLITICIANS, HIGH-RANKING CIVIL SERVANTS, AND BUSINESSMEN. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE TAKING THE PULSE OF QUEBEC IN AN ATTEMPT TO EVALUATE ITS SITUATION, THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE P, AND ITS NEEDS." COPY OF ARTICLE ENTITLED WHEN PARIS GLANCES AT QUEBEC WILL BE POUCHED ADDRESSES. BRIEFLY, ARTICLE CITES INCREASING FRENCH INTEREST IN QUEBEC AND ASKS WHAT QUEBEC CAN EXPECT OF FRANCE IF IT BECOMES INDEPENDENT. IF GAULLISTS RETURN TO POWER, AUTHOR JEAN DIDIER FESSOU EXPECTS QUEBEC WILL RECEIVE UNCONDITIONAL POLITICAL SUPPORT. ON OTHER HAND, HE BELIEVES LEFTIST PARTIES WOULD NOT INTEREST THEMSELVES IN QUEBEC AT ALL IF THEY TAKE POWER. AFTER PARAGRAPH QUOTED ABOVE, AUTHOR SURMISES THAT AGENTS OF 2EME BUREAU ARE NOT HERE FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS BUT BECAUSE QUEBEC HAS URANIUM. HE CONCLUDES NOTING THAT QUEBEC'S RELATIONS WITH COMMON MARKET WILL BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

4. COMMENT; CTV STORY RECEIVED LEAD STORY TREATMENT IN QUEBEC ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS TODAY BUT WENT UNREPORTED IN FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILIES RECEIVED HERE. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL REPORTS IN FRENCH-LANGUAGE PRESS OF THE FRENCH BUILDUP IN ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON BUT THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SEEN AS PART OF MANEUVERING FOR POSITION IN DISPUTE OVER 200 MILE FISHING RIGHTS. QUEBECOIS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AMBIVALENT IN THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT FRENCH (EMOTIONAL TIE OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE BUT FEELING THEY WERE DESERTED FOR 200 YEARS) AND MAY SHOW AMUSEMENT AT STORY WHERE MANY ENGLISH-CANADIANS WILL SHOW ANGER. RENE LEVESQUE - WHO IS KNOWN TO BE LESS THAN ENCHANTED WITH THE FRENCH - CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN CULTURAL AND BUSINESS TIES WHICH NOW EXIST WITH FRANCE BUT TO AVOID ANY SUSPICIOUS TYPE OF INVOLVEMENT. IN FACT, WHEREAS THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUEBEC 00385 132310Z

PREVIOUS LIBERAL, SO-CALLED "FEDERALIST" GOVERNMENT OFTEN EMPHASIZED ITS TIES WITH PARIS IN ATTEMPT TO PROVE ITS "NATIONALISM" AND OUTFLANK APPEAL OF PQ. CURRENT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NEED TO PROVE ITS NATIONALISM AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO STAY CLEAR OF UNFRUITFUL FLIRTATIONS.
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